

# Karen L. Love

1703 Edmund Terrace | Union, NJ 07083 | (973) 280-2294 | [Umojadance@aol.com](mailto:Umojadance@aol.com)

## OCCUPATION

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Owner/Director Umoja Dance Studio Vauxhall NJ	2012-Present
Full-Time Dance Teacher / Hillside High School Hillside, NJ	2001-Present
Founder/Artistic Director <b>USAAMA</b> Dance Company Vauxhall, NJ	1995-Present
Founder/Artistic Director <b>UMOJA</b> Dance Company Vauxhall, NJ	1993-Present
Founder Wofabe African Dance & Drum Festival	2006-2016

## EDUCATION

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Standard Certificate New Jersey Department of Education Trenton, New Jersey	Sept 2002
Masters in Fine Arts Dance New York University Tisch School of The Arts New York, New York	May 2000
Bachelor in Fine Arts Dance Montclair State University Montclair, New Jersey	May 1993

## PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

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Lotus Yoga Teacher Training Montclair, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>300RYT (Hatha, Vinyasa, Children, Pre-Natal)</li></ul>	May 2007
CORE Pilates New York, NY <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mat 32 Hours (Beginner-Intermediate)</li></ul>	April 2005

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Montclair State University Montclair, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adjunct Professor: African Dance</li></ul>	2011-2014
Newark Symphony Hall Performing Arts Summer Camp Newark, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Taught Modern dance classes to 80 students</li></ul>	2009
Montclair State University Gifted & Talented Summer Camp Montclair, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Taught classes in Modern and West African Dance to 50 students</li></ul>	2007-2008
Gallman's Newark Dance Theatre Newark, NJ <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Taught classes in Modern and West African Dance</li></ul>	2003-2005
Cicely Tyson School of Performing Arts East Orange, NJ	2001-2002

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- Taught classes in Modern, West African, Ballet, Choreography, Dance History to 100 students

Kent State University Kent, OH	2000-2001
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting Assistant Professor: Modern, West African, Composition, Dance as an Art form</li> <li>• BFA Project Senior Advisor: Provide leadership and guidance to Seniors dance majors during the creation of their concert. Provide feedback on theme, program, costumes, rehearsals and all technical aspects.</li> </ul>	
Montclair State University Montclair, NJ	1995-1999
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjunct Professor: Modern</li> </ul>	
Adult School of Montclair Montclair, NJ	1999- 2000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taught West African dance classes to 40 adult students</li> </ul>	
Walt Whitman Junior High Brooklyn, NY	1997-1998
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taught classes in Modern, West African, Jazz, Ballet, Choreography, and Dance History to 100 students Grades 6-8</li> </ul>	
New Jersey Performing Arts Center Dance Academy Newark, NJ	1995-1997
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taught classes in Modern and West African to 300 students Grades 3-8</li> </ul>	
Montclair High School Dance Company Montclair, NJ	1993-1996
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artistic Director: Taught, organized and choreographed for annual concert, assemblies and off -site locations</li> </ul>	

### CHOREOGRAPHY COMMISSIONS

Newark Arts High School Newark, NJ	2007 & 2019
Montclair High School Montclair, NJ	2013
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign Champaign County, IL	2004
Bates Dance Festival Lewistown, ME	2002
Westfield Symphony Orchestra Westfield, NJ	2001
New Jersey Chamber Music Society Montclair, NJ	2001
Symphony Space Dance Sampler New York, NY	2001
Kent Dance Ensemble Kent, OH	2000
Northern Illinois University Dance Company DeKalb, IL	2000 & 1997
New Jersey Performing Arts Center: Victoria Theatre/Kwanzaa Festival	1999 & 1998

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Newark, NJ

Baltimore Dance Theater Baltimore, MD	1999 & 1996
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Aaron Davis Hall/Out of Time Series Harlem, NY	1999
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The Yard: Martha's Vineyard Chilmark, MA	1997
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Bates Dance Festival: Emerging Choreography Series Lewistown, ME	1996
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### PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

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Von Howard Project New York, NY	2004-Present
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PAKA Dance Company New York, NY	1995-1997
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Urban Bush Woman Brooklyn, NY	1993-1994
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Gallman's Newark Dance Theater Newark, NJ	1988-1992
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### HONORS AND AWARDS

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NJSCA Folk Arts Apprenticeship	2003 & 2017
Essex County Block Grant Association	2001
50 Women You Should Know in Montclair	1997
New Jersey State Council on the Arts Choreography Fellowship Grant	1995
Harkness Choreography Space Grant at Suny Purchase	1994 & 1993
Montclair State University: Senior Award	1993
Montclair State University: Excellence in Choreography Award	1992

### AFFILIATIONS:

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DanceNJ Board Member	2019-Present
NJPAC Dance Advisory: Co -Chair	2014-Present
National Dance Education Organization Member	2015-Present
International Association of Blacks in Dance Member	1998-Present

*References and CV upon request*



Karen Love  
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Phone: 973-280-2294 Email: Umojadance@aol.com Website: www.umojadance.com

### Occupation

Owner/Director Umoja Dance Studio Vauxhall NJ	2012-Present
Full-Time Dance Teacher / Hillside High School Hillside, NJ	2001-Present
Founder/Artistic Director <b>USAAMA</b> Dance Company Vauxhall, NJ	1995-Present
Founder/Artistic Director <b>UMOJA</b> Dance Company Vauxhall, NJ	1993-Present
Adjunct Professor/ Montclair State University Montclair, NJ	2021-Present
Founder Wofabe African Dance & Drum Festival	2006-2016

### Education

Standard Certificate New Jersey Department of Education Trenton, New Jersey	Sept 2002
Masters in Fine Arts Dance New York University Tisch School of The Arts New York, New York	May 2000
Bachelor in Fine Arts Dance Montclair State University Montclair, New Jersey	May 1993

### Professional Certifications

Lotus Yoga Teacher Training Montclair, NJ	May 2007
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>300RYT (Hatha, Vinyasa, Children, Pre-Natal)</li></ul>	
CORE Pilates New York, NY	April 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mat 32 Hours (Beginner-Intermediate)</li></ul>	

### Higher Ed Teaching Experience

Montclair State University Montclair, NJ	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Adjunct Professor: African Dance</li><li>Adjunct Professor: Modern Dance</li></ul>	2020-Present 1995-1999
Montclair State University Gifted & Talented Summer Camp Montclair, NJ	2007-2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Taught classes in Modern and West African Dance to 50 students</li></ul>	
Kent State University Kent, OH	2000-2001

- Visiting Assistant Professor: Modern, West African, Composition, Dance as an Art form
- BFA Project Senior Advisor: Provide leadership and guidance to Seniors dance majors during the creation of their concert. Provide feedback on theme, program, costumes, rehearsals and all technical aspects.

### **PK-12 Teaching Experience**

Hillside High School  
Present  
Hillside, NJ

2001-

- Approximately 184 students taught per year grades 9-12. Teach Dance 1, Dance 2/3, Yoga
- Professional responsibilities:

Create curriculum for courses, maintain accurate attendance records, communicate with guidance and parents regarding individual student needs, submit lesson plans, submit progress reports, semester and final grades, attend staff and department meetings.

- Director Hillside High School Dance Ensemble:

Created in 2002 to give interested students the opportunity to perform, choreography, and work with professional artists while learning more about the world of dance. Students must audition to become members and the average company is 20-25 students. Auditions are open to grades 9-12 with little or no experience necessary. Members are respected role models of the school and must maintain passing grades. The ensemble performs throughout the year and presents a dance concert in May. Members participate in field trips to Montclair State University, NJPAC, Union City High School, Teens Arts Festival, Kean University and the Alley School in New York.

- Director Hillside Public Schools After School Dance Program:

I am the only dance teacher in the district. My supervisor wanted students in the district to have an opportunity to learn dance so she asked me to create a program. One of the goals is to inspire the students at a young age with the hopes they would attend the high school and continue to dance and participate in the arts. The program is for grades 3-8. Students study ballet, modern, jazz and west African dance for eight months after school. A recital is held in May and is open to the public. The dance recital is the most attended event in the district with 300 to 400 in attendance.

Cicely Tyson School of Performing Arts  
East Orange, NJ

2001-2002

- Taught classes in Modern, West African, Ballet, Choreography, Dance History to 100 students

Walt Whitman Junior High  
Brooklyn, NY

1997-1998

- Taught classes in Modern, West African, Jazz, Ballet, Choreography, and Dance History to 100 students Grades 6-8

Montclair High School Dance Company  
Montclair, NJ

1993-1996

- Artistic Director: Taught, organized and choreographed for annual concert, assemblies and off-site locations

### **Community & Studio Teaching Experience**

Newark Symphony Hall Performing Arts Summer Camp  
Newark, NJ

2009

- Taught Modern dance classes to 80 students

Gallman's Newark Dance Theatre  
Newark, NJ

2003-2005

- Taught classes in Modern and West African Dance  
Adult School of Montclair  
Montclair, NJ

1999- 2000

- Taught West African dance classes to 40 adult students

New Jersey Performing Arts Center Dance Academy  
Newark, NJ

1995-1997

- Taught classes in Modern and West African to 300 students Grades 3-8

### **Lectures, Presentations & Workshops Conducted**

DanceNJ Yoga Class for Dance Educators

September 2020

- Thirty participants

One Love Dance & Drum Retreat  
Negril, JA

2011-Present

Montclair State University Exchange Program  
Victorian Arts Center-George Fairfax Theatre,  
Melbourne, Australia,

June 1997

Queensland University of Technology- Woodward Theatre,  
Brisbane, Australia

June 1997

### **Administrative Experience**

Owner/Director Umoja Dance Studio  
Vauxhall NJ

2012-Present

- Teach yoga, and west African dance. Maintain class schedule, student and parent information records. Prepare and respond to email correspondents and phone inquires.

Founder/Artistic Director **USAAMA** Dance Company  
Vauxhall, NJ

1995-Present

- Teach and Choreograph for company members. Organize, costumes, musicians, guest choreographers and teachers, masterclasses. Provide performance opportunities for youth. Prepare and respond to email correspondents and phone inquires.

Founder/Artistic Director **UMOJA** Dance Company  
Vauxhall, NJ

1993-Present

- Teach and Choreograph for company members. Organize, costumes, musicians, guest choreographers, teachers, masterclasses. Provide performing and teaching opportunities for company members. Oversee fundraising and marketing incentives. Maintain financial and personal records for company. Prepare and respond to email correspondents and phone inquires.

Founder Wofabe African Dance & Drum Festival

2006-2016

- Hire teachers, musicians, panelist, emcee, and dance companies for festival. Identify Newark Public School to participate in the festival. Research locations for festival and oversee contracts for chosen venue. Oversee fundraising and marketing incentives. Communicate with council of elders and direct staff meetings.

### **Pre-Professional/Professional Dance Training**

Masters in Fine Arts Dance  
New York University Tisch School of The Arts

May 2000



New York, New York

- Courses: Modern, Ballet, Pilates, Music for 20 Century, Acting Voice, Composition
- Faculty: Kevin Wynn, Joy Kellman, Doug Varone, Gus Solomons, Jr Kathy Grant, Kay Cummings, Linda Tarney, Nicholas Leichter, Jackie Vilimil, James Martin, Tere O'Connor, James Sutton, William Moulton, Phyllis Lambut

Bachelor in Fine Arts Dance  
Montclair State University  
Montclair, New Jersey

May 1993

- Courses: Modern, West African, Ballet, Jazz, Composition, Dance History, Improvisation, Labanotation, Anatomy/Kinesiology, Yoga, Pilates
- Faculty: Lori Katterhenry, Smith & Shapiro, Pearson & Widrig, Nancy Lushington, Jackie Vilimil, Linda Roberts

ADF (American Dance Festival)

July 1991 & 1992

ACDF (American College Dance Festival)

1990-1993

**Professional Performance/Choreographic Experience**

Von Howard Project  
New York, NY

2004-2008

PAKA Dance Company  
New York, NY

1995-1997

Urban Bush Woman  
Brooklyn, NY

1993-1994

Gallman's Newark Dance Theater  
Newark, NJ

1988-1992

Centenary College Dance Festival

2013

Hackettstown, NJ

NJPAC Jersey Moves Dance Festival  
Newark, NJ

2012

Princeton University  
Princeton, NJ

2011

Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival  
New York, NY

2003

**Choreography Commissions**

Newark Arts High School  
Newark, NJ

2007 & 2019

Montclair High School  
Montclair, NJ

2013

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign  
Champaign County, IL

2004

Bates Dance Festival  
Lewistown, ME

2002

Westfield Symphony Orchestra  
Westfield, NJ

2001

New Jersey Chamber Music Society Montclair, NJ	2001
Symphony Space Dance Sampler New York, NY	2001
Kent Dance Ensemble Kent, OH	2000
Northern Illinois University Dance Company DeKalb, IL	2000 & 1997
New Jersey Performing Arts Center: /Kwanzaa Festival Newark, NJ	1999 & 1998
Baltimore Dance Theater Baltimore, MD	1999 & 1996
Aaron Davis Hall/Out of Time Series Harlem, NY	1999
The Yard: Martha's Vineyard Chilmark, MA	1997
Bates Dance Festival: Emerging Choreography Series Lewistown, ME	1996
NJPAC Youth Arts Festival Newark, NJ	2013
Symphony Space: Dance Sampler, Curator: Kay Cummings New York City, NY	2001
Aaron Davis Hall/Out of Time Series, Curator: Gus Solomons, Jr., Featuring Carmen de Lavallade and Dudley Williams New York City, NY	1999
Judson Memorial Church: (DADD) Dance of African Descent Downtown Series New York City, NY	1999
Dance Theatre Workshop: FreshTracks New York City, NY	1998
International Association of Blacks in Dance Professional Showcase: Duke University Durham, NC	1998
SUNY Purchase Dance Theater Lab: A New Generation of Dance Choreography Showcase New York City, NY	1996
PS 122: NewStuff, Curator: Clarinda Mac Low New York City, NY	1995
Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church: Food For Thought Series, Curator: Melissa Wynn New York City, NY	1995

#### **Technical Stage Production**

Self-produced all Umoja concerts at MSU 1993-2012. Managed and organized all tech crew, seamstress, and marketing.

#### **Professional Memberships & Affiliations**

DanceNJ Board Member	2019-Present
NJPAC Dance Advisory: Co -Chair	2014-Present



National Dance Education Organization Member

2015-Present

International Association of Blacks in Dance Member

1998-Present

### **Technological Competencies**

Microsoft Word, Genesis, Canvas, Youtube, Some Google Apps

### **Honors and Award**

NJSCA Folk Arts Apprenticeship

2003 & 2017

Essex County Block Grant Association

2001

50 Women You Should Know in Montclair

1997

New Jersey State Council on the Arts Choreography Fellowship Grant

1995

Harkness Choreography Space Grant at Suny Purchase

1994 & 1993

Montclair State University: Senior Award

1993

Montclair State University: Excellence in Choreography Award

1992

### **References**

Lori Katterhenry: Former Chair MSU Dance Department

katterhenrk@mail.montclair.edu

Eyesha Marable : Vice President Community Engagement NJPAC

emarable@njpac.org

Philip Thomas: Former VP Education NJPAC

newartz@verizon.net

Dr. Jeannie Paz : VP Hillside High School

jpaz@hillsidek12.org